Mansfield Sees Bias in Nixon Talks

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Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) said yesterday he believes the President's staunch declaration during his Saturday night news conference that he is "not a crook." But Mansfield branded as partisan at least two aspects of the President's recent efforts to go public on Watergate.

The Senate Democratic leader said it is a "good assumption" that the President put a partisan cast on his discussions of the Watergate affair with members of Congress. Last week Mr. Nixon talked only with Republicans and a few selected Democrats.

Mansfield also criticized the President for blaming the Democratic-controlled Congress for his decision to increase price supports for milk. He said it was the first time Mr. Nixon has indicated that he acted on policy matters because of congressional pressure. It has been reported that the President's price support decision came shortly after dairymen contributed substantially to his campaign coffers.

Appearing on the TV program "Meet the Press" (NBC, WRC) Mansfield said the President's power has not suffered in the Senate because of the uncertainties over Watergate.